

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07
NEA-10 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 AGRE-00
AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8730

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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FOR EB/OT/GCP - AHMAD

USOECD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD

SUBJ: UNCTAD PREFERENCES MEETING

1. FIRST THREE DAYS OF SUBJECT MEETING HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY
ROUTINE, LARGELY CONFINED TO STATEMENTS BY VARIOUS DELEGATIONS
ON OPERATION OF VARIOUS SCHEMES SINCE LAST PREFERENCES
MEETING. BRAZILIAN DELEGATION OPENED UP "DEBATE" WITH LONG
DISCOURSE ON FAULTS OF VARIOUS SCHEMES. SPEECH WAS BASICALLY
A REHASH OF BRAZILIAN STATEMENT AT CECOM MEETING IN BUENOS
AIRES, WITH SHORT ADDITION TOUCHING EC AND JAPANESE
SCHEMES. US AND EC DELS BOTH BRIEFLY REPLIED TO SOME OF
SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED BY BRAZILIAN, IN ADDITION TO PREPARED
STATEMENTS MADE LATER. US STATEMENT BRIEFLY DISCUSSED
FIRST YEAR'S OPERATION OF GSP, INCLUDING PROBLEM AREAS,
AND ONGOING GENERAL REVIEW. OPEC ISSUE HAS BEEN RAISED BY
SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATIONS, ESPECIALLY ECUADOR,
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WHICH HAS TWICE MADE SPECIAL INTERVENTIONS DECRYING COERCIVE
NATURE OF OPEC EXCLUSION.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF G-77 DRAFT RESOLUTION THAT HAS
BEEN PROPOSED TO GROUP B:

QUOTE:

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PREFERENCES,

BEARING IN MIND THE EXPERIENCE GAINED DURING THE PAST PERIODIC REVIEWS OF THE OPERATIONS AND EFFECTS OF GSP AND WITH REFERENCE TO SECTION VIII OF THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS, (1) AGREES TO INSTITUTE CONTINUOUSLY AVAILABLE PROCEDURES FOR SPECIFIC CONSIDERATION OF INDIVIDUAL SCHEMES OF PREFERENCE-GIVING COUNTRIES, WITH A VIEW TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE GENERAL SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

(2) REQUESTS THE SECY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD TO MAKE, AFTER APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS, SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR SUCH PROCEDURES AND TO REPORT TO THE RESUMED 8TH SESSION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PREFERENCES LATER THIS YEAR UNQUOTE.

3. REPORTEDLY, MODERATES IN G-77 SUCCEEDED IN GETTING THIS RESOLUTION BY ARGUING THAT ANYTHING MORE WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO GROUP B, AND THAT THIS WOULD HOPEFULLY BE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION. WE AGREE.

G-77 ALSO REPORTEDLY CONSIDERS THIS AS PROCEDURE FOR REVIEW, NOT COMPLAINT, AND WOULD LIKE TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURE SIMILAR TO CECON, WHERE EACH GSP WOULD BE REVIEWED SEPARATELY AND IN TURN. MAIN PROBLEMS WE SEE ARE WITH "CONTINUOUSLY AVAILABLE PROCEDURES", "CONTINUOUSIMPROVEMENT", "ALL ASPECTS", AND "RESUMED 8TH SESSION". INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER GROUP B MEMBERS HAVE SHOWN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THEY HAVE SIMILAR PROBLEMS. GROUP BE MEETING AT 1000 JUNE 30 TO DISCUSS RESPONSE TO G-77.

4. OUR INITIAL VIEW IS TO TRY FOR FIRST PARAGRAPH ALONG FOLLOWING LINES, AND INSTEAD OF RESUMED EIGHT SESSION, POSTPONE DISCUSSION UNTIL NINTH SESSION:

(1) AGREES TO THE DESIRABILITY OF STANDING PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION OF INDIVIDUAL SCHEMES OF PREFERENCE-GIVING COUNTRIES, WITH A VIEW TO CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF GSP.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED PROMPTLY IF WASHINGTON HAS PROBLEMS THIS APPROACH.

6. DRAFT RESOLUTION ABOVE APPEARS TO BE ONLY TEXT BEING SOUGHT BY G-77 FOR JOINT ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AND NO OTHERS ARE EXPECTED. WE HAVE ALSO SEEN A DRAFT DECLARATION OF G-77 STATING THAT "G-77 URGES PREFERENCE-GIVING COUNTRIES TO" AND THEN LISTING A NUMBER OF THE USUAL CHANGES G-77 WOULD LIKE. AS LONG AS IT REMAINS IN THIS FORM, THIS OBVIOUSLY CAUSES US NO PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH GROUP B WILL UNDOUBTEDLY MAKE A STATEMENT IN REPLY.

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